



# culture tok



MINISTRY OF TOURISM,  
ARTS AND CULTURE

NATIONAL CULTURAL COMMISSION | QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER



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MINISTER'S  
OVERVIEWCultural offices deserve  
recognition from Government

I wish to make a special mention to our eight retirees in this final Culture Tok edition of 2021. They include: Institute of PNG Studies Director Dr. Don Niles and Senior Researcher John Himugu, who both served the institute for 42 and 43 years respectively; Robert Yeweh, 43 years of service to National Performing Arts Troupe as an artist director; Gim Nicholas, 40 years of services to NPAT as dance instructor; Betty Martin, 35 years of service to NPAT as a screener; Fred Isasar, 35 years of service to National Film Institute as an assistant editor; John Raissy Bui, executive driver for 16 years with NCC; and Nellie Kawo with NCC as the Giftshop Supervisor for 12 years.

I take my hat off to these public servants who in total clocked 266 years. Their service to our country was flawless and graceful. They worked with passion, dedication and commitment. These are our hardworking Papua New Guineans, who continued to serve the country with dignity, pride and honesty regardless of challenges.

It is in times like this that we all need to reflect on what we as a people of this country can do for ourselves. We all need to reflect on that because it is important when issues and the situation of the country is at stake. Whether it be for health reasons, economic reasons or for political reasons, whatever reason we may be confronted with, I believe the most important thing that we as a people of this country and nation, is to come together.

We all need to stand together, and we all need to put into whatever little we are doing, whether you are a cleaner, a driver or an executive officer of an institution, we must have that passion and the commitment to serve our country in whatever position we hold – we all need that commitment and the passion to serve.

National Cultural Commission is a very important institute, of course the Institute of PNG Studies, the National Film Institute, and the National Performing Arts Troupe inclusive. These institutions are involved in the cultural affairs of the country. They are the ones who bring out, raise or make aware of what we have in terms of our culture and our tradition.

They reflect on that and raise our traditional and cultural heritage to a level where it can be packaged as a tourism product, thus our commitment to the National Cultural Commission towards tourism is very important, and I thank the Executive Director of National Cultural Commission Mr. Steven Enomb Kilanda for having that leadership and the vision in making these institutions very significant especially during this time of Covid 19.



**HON. ISI HENRY LEONARD, MP**  
MINISTER FOR TOURISM,  
ARTS & CULTURE

We also have the National Museum and Art Gallery that plays a significant role as well – not only in displaying our history, our culture or our art and modern history, but also having an influence to impact our government and our people the importance of what we already have – our culture.

For many years, past and present governments have given “a very passive attention” to culture and tourism. Not very much recognition was given to my Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture.

We continue to give or provide lip-service. We continue to say that these are important institutions, and we further continue to reflect that lip-service in our policies and stories without any real substance in terms of budget appropriation.

If we reviewed our country's appropriation for the last few years, we will find a testimony of failure by the government in terms of resources appropriation in our annual budgets, and I think it is time the government consider important and significant the cultural institutions of this country and give them prominence in the distribution of wealth.

Hon. Isi Henry Leonard, MP  
Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture.





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## CULTURAL GROUP HIRE FEES

1 x Cultural Group Hire (Domestic   National)	
Group Fee	– K1,000
NCC Admin. Fee	– K300
Facilitation Fee	– K100
Total	– K1,400
1 x Cultural Group Hire (International   Diplomatic)	
Group Fee	– K1,500
NCC Admin. Fee	– K300
Facilitation Fee	– K150
Total	– K1,950

Contact National Cultural Commission  
for further information and or details.

## Cover Photo:

Don Niles

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
FOREWORDThank you, Tourism  
Promotion Authority

I am content with the performance of the National Cultural Commission of Papua New Guinea. In fact, we have achieved more in 2021 than we had anticipated. I thank and commend all my hardworking staff from the Head Office and the three cultural institutions including the Institute of PNG Studies, the National Film Institute and the National Performing Arts Troupe.

Now that we have raised the bar in 2021, this new year 2022 is not going to be easy. We must work twice as hard to maintain the status quo or better it. That is my challenge and yours too in 2022.

I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the progress of the National Cultural Policy 2022 – 2032. To be honest, I am quite impressed with our own Policy Division assisted by consultants Dr Michael Unage and his assistant, Norit Luio. They have done an excellent job.

The realization of the National Cultural Policy 2022 – 2032 is just three major workshops away. We have the Momase regional consultation workshop coming up on the 26th of January in Lae, Morobe Province, and the Highlands regional one in Mt Hagen, Western Highlands Province



*Tourism Promotion Authority Chief Executive Officer, Eric Mossman Uvovo, at the opening of the New Guinea Islands regional consultation workshop on the National Cultural Policy at Gazelle International Hotel in Kokopo.*



**STEVEN ENOMB KILANDA**  
Executive Director

in mid February, followed by a validation workshop in Port Moresby. And by March, we should have the blessing of the National Executive Council and eventually the endorsement by Parliament before the National General Elections kicks in by mid-2022.

I observe the development of this policy with great interest because this is going to be the first ever cultural policy of Papua New Guinea. There has been no such policy document since the inception of National Cultural Commission over 30 years ago. Nothing.

I am aware there were at least 14 attempts made in the past to formulate one but for some unknown reasons, they went cold. The one we're working on now will materialize because there is very good support from all stakeholders, especially the political will from our Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture and the valued advice and continued support from the two sister agencies – the Tourism Promotion Authority and the National Museum and Art Gallery.

Thank you, Dr. Andrew Moutu, from the National Museum and Art Gallery for your advice and guidance and Mr. Eric Mossman Uvovo from Tourism Promotion Authority for your advice, guidance and continuous support, particularly the financial support to host the two remaining workshops in the Momase and Highlands regions. This level of collaboration shows great leadership traits and genuine comradeship.

A big thank you to all the other stakeholders who have contributed in one way or another directly and or indirectly so far.

Thank you.

**STEVEN ENOMB KILANDA**  
Executive Director

NGI regional consultation workshop participants with TPA CEP Eric Mossman Uvovo and NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda. Far right seated is the President of the Board of Trustees of the National Museum and Arts Gallery, Robert Asa.



# GOV'T EXPRESSES CONFIDENCE ON CULTURAL POLICY

| By Eric Kone

**The National Government is confident that the national policy document on arts and culture will be inclusive and representative. Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Isi Henry Leonard said this on November 16 when he formally opened the Southern region leg of a series of regional consultative workshops on the national cultural policy, which is currently in draft form.**

The Southern region workshop was held at Holiday Inn in Port Moresby. It was attended by representatives from Oro, Milne Bay, Central, National Capital District, Gulf and Western provincial administrations. This was the first workshop in a series of four regional consultation workshops aimed at gauging views of Papua New Guineans towards developing the policy.

Minister Leonard said the development of the National Cultural Policy was a milestone achievement for the country and the cultural sector.

He said: "It is a necessary and timely document because over the last four decades since Independence, we can unequivocally concede that, policy directions were inconsistent towards cultural development in the country.

"Over that period, activities related to culture and arts were being performed, celebrated and marketed at an ad hoc basis by those responsible, at times, level of cooperation, commitment, leadership, funding, accountability and focus were well below expected thresholds to produce outcomes that are desirable, durable and sustainable," the Minister said.

He added that despite the challenges, arts and cultural institutions continued to meet the expectations of the Government and the people of Papua New Guinea.

The Minister said he was also confident that the National Cultural Policy will empower State cultural institutions and promote excellence with strategic policy directions, regulatory powers, strong leadership and governance to provide effective cultural services, and ensure that government policies are aligned to develop and safeguard our cultural heritage, assets and aspirations.

For the effective implementation of this policy, the Minister said critical enablers such as the proposed Ministerial Advisory Council and the National Cultural Centre and other cultural service providers must be in place. "We need such for coordination and ensuring implementation of the activities outlined in the Policy. With the development of this policy, we realize and commit ourselves to the call to "Take Back PNG" by the Government.

"We will do that with our greatest economic asset freely at our disposal and that is our culture. Once our non-renewable resources have been fully exploited, we will still have our cultural resources to fall back on," he said.

He said his vision is to see that forms of expressions of culture are taken back and promoted with the active participation of the local communities and villages. "After all, the preservation and survival of our intangible cultural heritage including arts, customs and traditions depend largely on active live-performances to inspire the next generation of young people to continue on with the traditions.

"Cultural tourism is an important sector that needs government intervention and support at all times, that is, our cultural festivals, shows and historical sites attracting visitors to our shores. Challenges associated with costs, transportation, communication and

law and order needs to be addressed if we are to compete in the international market for foreign tourists," Minister Leonard said. He said effective coordination and implementation of the Policy at national and subnational levels is key to realize the main outcomes of the policy.

The National Cultural Commission which will be coordinating the implementation of programs and activities will, through a Ministerial Advisory Committee, work with the Treasury Department, the National Planning and Monitoring Department and key stakeholders to ensure that the Policy receives sufficient funding over the 10-year period. The Ministerial Advisory Committee will be established by the Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture.

The Minister said: "I can with complete assurance in my capacity as Minister acknowledge that this Policy supports the government's emphasis towards economic growth and sustaining the social capacity of our people as captured under Pillar 6 of Vision 2050, the Medium-Term Development Plan and PNG Sustainable Development Plan 2010-2030.

"Henceforth, we by now must realize that there is a huge potential for income generation and employment creation towards supporting the growth of the national economy for our people for those dealing with arts and craft and performance in the cultural industry," he said.

**"We by now must realize that there is a huge potential for income generation and employment creation"**



# WORK ON POLICY PROGRESSING WELL

| By Eric Kone

**Work on a policy document on arts and culture is progressing well with anticipation to present it before cabinet in March 2022. The 10-year National Cultural Policy 2022 – 2032, when approved by government, will become the first ever policy on arts and culture since the inception of the National Cultural Commission.**

The National Cultural Commission since its establishment in 1994 has had no policy and has been operating on ad hoc bases, thus attracting little or less attention from the government over the years in terms of budgetary support.

Head of National Cultural Commission Mr. Steven Enomb Kilanda in his closing remarks of the recent second consultation workshop on the National Cultural Policy in Kokopo, East New Britain Province, thanked the Tourism Promotion Authority for its support towards the development of the National Cultural Policy.

He said he was grateful TPA has been very supportive and thanked the Chief Executive Officer Eric Mossman Uvovo for committing TPA to provide funding support for the two upcoming consultation workshops in Lae for the Momase region and Mt Hagen for the Highlands region in the coming weeks. Mr. Uvovo, when opening the Kokopo consultation workshop reaffirmed his support and commitment saying promotion of cultural tourism was the way forward for the country.

"It's about time we develop a culture and arts policy, and I am happy to be part of this exercise. TPA cannot do it alone in trying to market culture because we are so diverse, but working together with NCC makes it a lot easier because NCC owns the product. Cultural tourism is the way forward," he said.

Mr. Uvovo said international studies have identified culture having a global monetary value of US\$450 billion, "and PNG has not even captured one per cent of it. Imagine we capture just one per cent of that, we can go miles".

The National Cultural Policy consultation workshop held at the Gazelle International Hotel was successfully concluded on a high note with participants and stakeholders from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, New Ireland, West New Britain and the host province, East New Britain.

Government representatives from the Department of National Planning and Monitoring and Investment Promotion

Authority's Intellectual Property Office also attended the workshop. Some of Papua New Guinea's prominent musicians like AKay47, Anslom Nakikus and Nathan Nakikus also attended the workshop.

The National Cultural Commission is hopeful the policy, when approved by the National Government and implemented, would pave the way for more effective collaborative work with development partners to execute and deliver cultural services in the country. It further expects the policy to be inclusive and representative.

The New Guinea Islands consultation workshop was formally closed by the Executive Director of National Cultural Commission Steven Enomb Kilanda.



*Participants during group discussion session at the New Guinea Islands National Cultural Policy consultation workshop in Kokopo.*





# NCC BREATHING LIFE INTO MOTHER LAW

*TPA CEO Eric Mossman Uvovo making a point to musicians AKay47 and Anslom Nakikus at the National Cultural Policy consultation workshop in Kokopo.*

**The National Cultural Commission is breathing cultural life into the Constitution of Papua New Guinea which is built on the cultural heritage of the country.**

The Executive Director of National Cultural Commission Steven Enomb Kilanda made this remark December 2021 when closing the one-day consultation workshop on the National Cultural Policy in Kokopo East New Britain Province.

He said though the Constitution of Papua New Guinea was based or founded on the cultural values of the country, little or nothing of it is captured in the country's national development plans.

"That is why we are developing a national cultural policy for the country thus breathing cultural life into our Mother Law," Mr Kilanda said.

He said strategies for cultural development are hardly mentioned in Pillar 6 of Vision 2050 and in the PNG Development Strategic Plan, culture is obscured in tourism.

"The fact before us is giving us the impetus to develop a policy on every aspect of our diverse culture," he added.

Mr Kilanda said even budget allocation towards culture every year is very limited because culture is never captured in the country's development plans.

He said he was hopeful governments will give more recognition to culture when a national policy is in place, thus giving every



reason to lure a far more serious government funding support to the National Cultural Commission to deliver cultural services to the people of Papua New Guinea.

About 50 culture and arts practitioners and industry stakeholders participated in the one-day workshop at the Gazelle International Hotel in Kokopo. There were representatives from the Autonomous Region of Bougainville, New Ireland, West New Britain and the host province East New Britain.

Some of the notable participants include the former executive director of National

**"The Constitution of Papua New Guinea was based or founded on the cultural values of the country"**

Cultural Commission Dr. Jacob Simet, who helped established NCC in 1993. He left in 2016. Other distinguished participants included some of PNG's top musicians like AK47, Anslom Nakikus, Oscar Anis and Nathan Nakikus.

The presence of the musicians at the workshop also attracted the attention of Mr Uvovo who acknowledged them for taking part, and stressed the importance of the music industry in the culture and arts sector.



# HELLO DUBAI, HERE WE COME

The finalists with NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda (front from left) chairman of TPA Board and Nawae MP Kennedy Wenge and TPA CEO Eric Mossman Uvovo.



| By ERIC KONE

**Two contemporary cultural music dance groups will be travelling to Dubai in the United Arab Emirates to participate in the World Expo.**

Bilas Dance Group and Creative Arts Strand of the University of Papua New Guinea were selected after topping the final audition on November 11 at the Hilton Hotel in Port Moresby.

In fact, the final five dance groups were so impressively explosive that the Tourism Promotion Authority had to announce its decision to add yet another group from the three that judges had unwillingly axed.

It is not yet known which dance group will be selected, but the Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Promotion Authority Eric Mossman Uvovo has confirmed and announced the additional team and called on business houses and government

agencies to help fund the group to travel to Dubai.

Keeping their fingers crossed for the TPA selection are Polly Crew, Active City Development Program and Wan Squad. Mr. Uvovo congratulated the winners and urged them to prepare well for the exposition in 2022.

TPA and its sister agency, the National Cultural Commission, are the lead agencies coordinating and facilitating the search to identify and send the best, vibrant and energetic troupe to represent PNG to promote contemporary music and dance and market the PNG tourism cultural brand in Dubai, where the World Expo 2020 is currently underway. Papua

New Guinea is among many countries in the world taking part in that global showpiece.

Dubai is a must-see tourist destination. It is best described as a luxurious modern oasis in the middle of the desert. A beautiful city that attracts tourists from all over the world, Dubai boasts of having luxurious skyscrapers and hotels.

Initially, a total of 13 contemporary cultural music dance groups participated in an audition at the Cosmopolitan on November 3, 2021. Of the 13, five progressed to the finals which saw the selection of the two groups by the judges and the one to be selected by TPA.

**Dubai is a must-see tourist destination It is best described as a luxurious modern oasis in the middle of the desert.**

# EASTERN HIGHLANDS UNDER FIRE FOR NEGLECT

| By Eric Kone

The Eastern Highlands Provincial Government and its provincial administration came under fire for neglecting cultural institutions in its province.

The province hosts three cultural institutions namely the National Film Institute, the National Performing Arts Troupe based in Goroka and the provincial cultural centre based in Kainantu, but has not been supporting and funding them.

"If any, it is always insufficient or very little," National Cultural Commission Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda said in December.

He said Eastern Highlands Province is the gateway to the rest of the highlands provinces yet its cultural institutions are rotting due to blatant neglect.

Mr Kilanda expressed disappointment at the Eastern Highlands Provincial Government and the administration when presenting about K100,000 in cash and kind to the three cultural institutions.

He travelled to Kainantu and presented a K20,000 cheque to help renovate the Eastern Highlands Cultural Centre there.

He also presented a lawn mover and a slasher to maintain the yard and further gave K5,000 cheque each to a long-time potter and a weaver who have been working there since the establishment of the centre. Back in Goroka, he presented a cheque of K60,000 to the National Performing Arts Troupe to fix its ablution block, the drainage system and the interior of the Raun Raun Theatre, which NCC helped renovate two years ago.

NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda with staff of the Eastern Highlands Cultural Center in Kainantu.



He also presented two laptops and a camera to the National Performing Arts Troupe to better perform its work, and further presented a K5,000 to the initiator of Kemase Cultural Centre in Lufa District - the balance of an initial K5,000 NCC had provided earlier on September 16, 2021.

Mr Kilanda called on the provincial administration to consider a draft memorandum of understanding with the National Cultural Commission that has been with the administration for some time. "NCC is a small office and cannot deliver cultural services to the people of Eastern Highlands alone. We need to partner to work together and that MoU is the way forward," Mr Kilanda said.

He added that Goroka MP Aiye Tambua has been very helpful, but hinted that the rest of the eight MPs must also be seen to be interested in the delivery of cultural services to the people of Eastern Highlands.





# PROV. GOV'TS CHALLENGED TO SET UP CULTURAL CENTERS

*Participants of the Southern regional consultation workshop at Holiday Inn in Port Moresby.*



**The Executive Director of the National Cultural Commission Steven Enomb Kilanda has challenged provincial governments to seriously consider establishing cultural centers in their provinces.**

He said NCC would provide a funding support of K100,000 to the province that is open, ready and willing to partner with the Commission to establish and administer its cultural center.

Mr. Kilanda issued the challenge during the opening of the Southern regional consultation workshop on the National Cultural Policy 2022 – 2032 at Holiday Inn in Port Moresby on November 16.

He also called on the provincial governments to partner with the Commission by way of signing memorandum of understanding so “we can work together to deliver cultural services to our people”.

So far, only three provincial governments have signed MoUs with the National Cultural Commission. They are Enga, Milne Bay and

Central Provincial Governments. Others in the pipeline include Oro Provincial Government, West New Britain Provincial Government, West Sepik Provincial Government and Eastern Highlands Provincial Government.

Mr. Kilanda said provincial governments play a vital role during the formative phase of the National Cultural Policy and welcomed representatives from Oro, Milne Bay, Central, Gulf, Western provincial administrations and National Capital District to the workshop.

He said the National Cultural Commission has had no cultural policy since its inception in 1994 and has been operating on ad hoc basis. He added that culture has not been given any prominence in the National Government because there was no policy in place.

Mr. Kilanda said he is hopeful that the National Cultural Policy, when approved by the National Government and implemented, would pave the way for more effective

**“Provincial governments to partner with the Commission by way of signing memorandum of understanding”**

collaborative work with development partners to execute and deliver cultural services in the country.

The consultation workshop in Port Moresby is the first regional workshop in a series of four regional consultation workshops aimed at gauging views of Papua New Guineans towards

developing a cultural policy draft that will be inclusive and representative.

The New Guinea Islands, Momase and Highlands regional workshops will be held in the coming weeks and the final draft of the National Cultural Policy 2022 – 2032 is expected to be ready by March 2022.

# MINISTER UNPACKS INTERNAL WORRIES

| By Eric Kone

**Our Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture has put his own government to test and challenged it to give more recognition to his portfolio – the tourism, arts and cultural sector.**

He said in public recently that the government (both current and previous) have been taking a passive approach towards culture giving nothing but lip-service.

“This is reflected in the annual budget appropriations,” he says. Similarly, the government’s perception towards developing tourism is half-hearted or even less when it comes to allocation of resources.

“We need K200 million to resurrect the tourism industry,” he stressed. Describing the tourism industry as

a “sleeping giant”, Minister Leonard demanded from the government a budget allocation of K200 million “to wake the sleeping giant”.

He took issue with the government, of which he is a part, that its reason not to allow the National Cultural Commission to immediately occupy the International Convention Centre (ICC) “is a lame reason”.

He says, “it is as simple as fixing the defects, moving in and occupying the facility. We can’t continue to go around everywhere looking for office space. I told NEC that NCC does not have an office and I (as the Minister) do not have an office too,” Hon. Leonard said on December 23 in Port Moresby.

The Minister unpacked his concerns during a farewell dinner hosted by NCC in honor

“Minister Leonard demands from the government a budget allocation of K200 million “to wake the sleeping giant”

of four long-serving public servants who had collectively clocked 130 years of service to the country – two of them over 40 years each.

The Minister acknowledged the government’s position on the issues he raised and thanked it for agreeing in “principle” for NCC to occupy ICC.

ICC was built by the Chinese Government as a gift to the people of Papua New Guinea in light of the 2018 APEC meeting in Port Moresby. The multi-million Kina state-of-the-art facility has not been occupied since after a series of APEC meetings due to a number of technical issues.



Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture Hon Isi Henry Leonard and NCC boss Steven Enomb Kilanda with the four Port Moresby-based retirees at Laguna Hotel in Port Moresby.



# NCC TO RECALL 3 RETIREES

“All these years you have served our country with commitment and honesty”



**Eight long-serving public servants who collectively clocked 266 years were farewellled in December by the National Cultural Commission.**

Four of them were from the cultural institutions based in Goroka, Eastern Highlands Province, namely the National Film Institute and the National Performing Arts Troup (Raun Raun Theatre), whilst the other four were from the Institute of PNG Studies and the National Cultural Commission in Port Moresby. The National Cultural Commission is the governing authority of the three cultural institutions mentioned.

Of the eight retirees, three are likely to be recalled to continue to provide advice and guidance until such time their services would no longer be required.

This, according to the Executive Director of National Cultural Commission, Steven Enomb Kilanda, is because of a huge experience and knowledge vacuum left at the Institute of PNG Studies following the retirement of IPNGS Director Dr. Don Niles and Senior Researcher John Himugu, who both served the institute for 42 and 43 years respectively.

The third retiree from Port Moresby likely to be recalled too is Mr. John Raissy Bui, who served the National Cultural Commission



*NCC boss Steven Enomb Kilanda and Director of NPAT John Doa with Goroka-based retirees at the Phoenix Restaurant in Goroka.*

as a Driver for 16 years. The fourth one is Mrs. Nellie Kawo, who leaves after 12 years serving the Commission as the Giftshop Supervisor. These four Port Moresby retirees clocked a total of 113 years, whilst their colleagues in Goroka collectively served a total of 153 years, bringing a combined service number of years up to 266.

“That is the total amount of years our eight long-serving officers have given to our country delivering cultural services to the people of Papua New Guinea,” Mr. Kilanda said, adding that the degree of appreciation at the time of their departure is however very minimal.

Mr. Kilanda expressed great sadness during two separate farewell functions and suggested the government consider providing better gifts like a home or a piece land for those that have served over 40 years in the public service. He thanked and described them as honest, dedicated and committed public servants that deserved more than just a hand shake and a few gifts.

Mr. Kilanda said he would ask the Department of the Personnel Management and the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Hon. Isi Henry Leonard to support him in his attempt to recall the trio to continue to serve the Commission for at least six months more.

He said he understood the Department of Personnel Management would soon be rolling a Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) scheme as part of its retrenchment package

but added that he was more concerned with public servants (in terms of the age factor) that have served 40 years or more with the public service.

He said the National Cultural Commission has been the only government agency in the recent past that has retired officers with over 40 years of service.

**“Bringing a combined service number of years up to 266”**

In Goroka, Mr Kilanda was visibly emotional. “I feel so sorry for all of you because I have nothing to give you for all these years you have served our country with commitment and honesty,” he said as he presented them certificates of appreciation and a smart phone each. The retirees in Goroka included Robert Yeweh, 43 years of service to NPAT as an artist director; Gim Nicholas, 40 years of services to NPAT as dance instructor; Betty Martin, 35 years of service to NPAT as a screener; and Fred Isasar, 35 years of service to NFI as an assistant editor.

Back in Port Moresby, the retirees and their spouses were joined by the staff and the management of NCC and IPNGS at a farewell dinner at the Laguna Hotel. The dinner also coincided with the staff’s end-of-the-year party.

The Port Moresby retirees were also given a Certificate of Appreciation and a smart phone each. Retiree Don Niles was presented a painting of his portrait by registered artist, Albert Miori.



# DON DEPARTS IN HUMILI NOBLE ADVICE



Minister Henry presenting Dr. Niles' portrait as NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda looks on. (Inset): Artist Albert Miori with Mr. Kilanda, Minister Henry and Dr. Niles.

| By Eric Kone

**Retiring Director of the Institute of PNG Studies Dr. Don Niles has challenged the staff of IPNGS and the National Cultural Commission to show their level of commitment and dedication in their service to the country.**

"I think all of us retirees would be very happy if you showed the level of commitment and dedication, we have tried our best to display towards our work over the years," Dr. Niles said at the retirees' farewell dinner hosted by NCC in Port Moresby on December 23.

"But commitment and dedication are just part of any success, there also has to be a tremendous amount of enthusiasm. Without that enthusiasm, we just do our jobs. That is good, of course, but enthusiasm must be there all the time," he added.

Dr. Niles, IPNGS Senior Researcher John Himugu, NCC Driver John Raissy Bui and NCC Giftshop Supervisor Nellie Kawo were farewelled at the dinner attended by the Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard, Executive Director of NCC Steven Enomb Kilanda and the staff and management of the agency. The retirees

collectively clocked a total of 130 years in the public service.

Dr. Niles said he was proud of one of IPNGS staff, Naomi Falk-Simet, who successfully completed her PhD program at the University of Auckland in New Zealand. He congratulated her and said Naomi could never have done that without absolute commitment, dedication and enthusiasm. "These are precisely the kinds of people IPNGS and NCC need," he said.

"Another person who absolutely shows such enthusiasm is our boss, Steven. Ever since he began work at NCC, his enthusiasm for cultural activities has been at the highest level, and we can all learn from his example.

"Thank you, Steven!"

"The future of IPNGS and NCC is with all of you seated in the back of the room, the present and future staff of these institutions," he said.

Dr. Niles said it had been his greatest privilege and honor to work at IPNGS for 42 years with people concerned with documenting and celebrating the cultures

of Papua New Guinea, which he added had enabled him to work with and learn from them all.

"This chunk of time gave me the freedom and trust to pursue things I thought would continue the excellent work done before me and expand into other areas of importance.

"Aside from my special area of focus, music, my long years of being an acting director taught me much about interacting with people.

"Indeed, the staff at IPNGS was my first family in PNG, long before I started having a family of my own here. As with all families, we sometimes discussed, yelled, got angry, but always found a way to respect one another and make peace. I think everyone at NCC should work constantly to maintain that level of respect and professionalism: whatever our jobs, we are human and need to be treated as such, we must not become statistics," he said.

Dr. Niles also paid tribute to the respective family members of the retirees for their support over the years of service to the country.



# LITY WITH

## CHRISTMAS DINNER

EMBER 2021

length, guidance and prosperity"



Since then, Don has worked in the music department, researching, archiving, and publishing on many types of music and dance in Papua New Guinea, including traditional, popular, and Christian form. The author/editor of numerous books, articles, and audiovisual publications on various aspects of music, dance, and archiving, Don also established and edits the Institute's music monograph series (Apwitihi: Studies in Papua New Guinea Musics) and journal (Kulele: Occasional Papers in Pacific Music and Dance).

In this capacity, he has promoted PNG music and dance at overseas conferences and organisations. In particular, he has long been a member of the International Council for Traditional Music. He is presently a vice president, a member of the its Executive Board, and a former editor of their journal, the Yearbook for Traditional Music. He is co-editor of an encyclopaedic book on the history of that organisation, which should be published this year.



Although Don became a PNG citizen in 1990, long before that he requested to be put on a national salary, rather than the expatriate one he was entitled to, since he felt the dual pay system implemented at the time was unfair. He also served as IPNGS acting director, 2005–21.

Don received his PhD in anthropology and sociology from the University of Papua New Guinea in 1972 for his dissertation on the music and dance forms of people in the Hagen area in comparison with other groups. Since 2008, he has had a special relation with the Australian National University, presently as an honorary associate professor, which enables him access to internet resources through their library.

In 2016, Don was invested as an Officer in the Order of Logohu in recognition of his work on PNG musical traditions. It has been Don's greatest privilege to work at IPNGS, and he hopes he can pass on to others the commitment and dedication to this work that has always motivated and inspired him.

"In order to make such a commitment to our job, we need support at home too. Therefore, I'd like to celebrate the essential contribution of our families to our contribution as well," he said.

Dr Niles thanked everyone on behalf of his fellow retirees and said they were happy to have worked with everyone, and have become friends with all over the years. He challenged the continuing staff that the future of IPNGS and NCC depended on their level of commitment, dedication and, of course, enthusiasm.

He said they (retirees) remain available and that they would be more than happy if an opportunity becomes available for any of them to be recalled to work at IPNGS and NCC.

### Don Niles

Don Niles was born in Chicago, USA, and received his bachelor's degree in composition and music history from Chicago Musical College, Roosevelt University, in 1976. During one summer he took a course on music in Papua New Guinea and discovered ethnomusicology. In 1976–79, he undertook graduate studies in that field at the University of California, Los Angeles, and eventually wrote a master's thesis on the music of Manus, using recordings made by an anthropologist.

During this time, Don worked in an archive and was in communication with staff at the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies. IPNGS offered him a six-month job to help set up their archive. He arrived in PNG in 1979, and has been honoured to be employed there ever since.



# NCC HAS NEW LOGO

*NCC boss Steven Enomb Kilanda launches the new NCC logo as logo designer Edwin Kouvali looks on.*

The National Cultural Commission of Papua New Guinea launched its new corporate logo in October 2021, and is set launch its corporate wear in February 2022 in a move to rebrand its corporate image and profile.

NCC views these moves as important because it believes that the organization has been going through a major overhaul in the recent past and that a new look is required to compliment that shift.

NCC's executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda says because culture is not static, change is necessary.

"Culture is not static but rather evolves over a period of time. Advanced technological innovations are now posing serious threat to the existence and survival of our culture and arts.

"The National Cultural Commission must embrace this change as we are not immune from this onslaught but rather take a proactive approach.

"To minimise the effect on our culture, the National Cultural Commission must accept this advancement in technological innovations and utilise them properly in our struggle to maintain, safeguard, develop and promote our indigenous art and culture in this era," he said when launching the new

logo in October at the Head Office in Port Moresby.

The old logo of the Commission was designed in 1993 by artist The Late Martin Morabubuna from the Trobriand Islands in Milne Bay Province. He was one of the first student intakes at the National Arts School when it was established by the then National Cultural Council in 1976. Late Morobubuna was commissioned to design the logo following the inception of the National Cultural Commission in 1994.

The new logo was designed by a professional graphic artist, Mr. Edwin Kouvali, who also comes from the Milne Bay Province. He walked away with K5000 as prize money for winning a logo competition organized by the Commission.

The fifth and fourth prizes of K250 and K500, respectively, were awarded to students to encourage them to develop their creativity talents as they progress in their education.

The fifth prize of K250 went to 14-year-old Benedict Paul whilst the fourth prize of K500 was awarded to 22-year-old Anthony Woni. The third and second cash prizes of K1500 and K2500 were given to a James Wanu and a Stemson Bisi, respectively.

Mr Kilanda thanked everyone who participated in the competition and encouraged them to continue to pursue their talent in arts.

Over 800 logo designs were received nationwide from students in primary, secondary and tertiary schools and institutions and the general public at large including professional designers.



*Don Niles, IPNGS director, showing the researchers a slide of the phonograph used to make the early recordings (photo by Jack Kopal).*

# EARLY SOUND RECORDINGS AS DOCUMENTS FOR CULTURAL RESEARCH

On 5 October, six researchers attended an orientation session at the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies (IPNGS), a national cultural institution focussed on research, under the National Cultural Commission and the Ministry for Tourism, Arts, and Culture. They will be engaged to take recordings that are over a hundred years old back to the regions in which they were recorded.

Between 1898 and 1918, some of the earliest sound recordings from Papua New Guinea were recorded by British researchers. Staff at the Music Department of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies are involved in a research project seeking to reconnect these early recordings with the descendants of the performers.

True Echoes: Reconnecting Cultures with Recordings from the Beginning of Sound is a three-year (June 2019 – June 2022) collaborative project funded by the Leverhulme Trust and the UK Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy, in partnership with the British Library Sound Archive, Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies, and other institutions in the Pacific and the United Kingdom (<https://www.true-echoes.com/>).

Two months ago, the British High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea presented to IPNGS some of the equipment that will be used for this project. Since then other equipment has been obtained, research funding received, and research documents finalised for the next stage of the project: engaging speakers of the languages recorded as researchers to discuss these recordings with the communities concerned, recording other examples of such songs and stories, learning about the people who were recorded, and sharing copies of the information about these recordings that has been compiled from written sources such as books, articles, and diaries.

For the initial phase of this research, six researchers were chosen. Three researchers will work in Central Province: Essau Goasa Homoka (Koita language), Onu Kere (Motu), and Fa'afo Pat (Hula). And three researchers will work in Milne Bay Province: Linus

Digim'Rina and Niyawa John (Kilivila), and Alfred Faiteli (Bwanabwana).

Individuals conducting research in the language of the area in which the recordings were made is also a celebration of Papua New Guinea's tremendous cultural diversity and a demonstration of the importance of the maintenance of our languages as an essential part of our identity.

The orientation session gave the six researchers a detailed overview of the project, the history of early recording in Papua New Guinea, the collections of concern in the British Library, the collectors, the researchers on this project in London, the goals of the planned fieldwork, the equipment to be used, and the preparation of materials collected for subsequent archiving.

IPNGS Music Department staff will now provide further training on equipment usage and documentation techniques for some of these researchers so they can begin immediately. Everyone involved in the project looks forward to learning what these early recordings can still teach us about the traditions they document.

IPNGS is also looking for researchers to work with other recordings in this project. Potential researchers who are speakers of Mekeo, Roro, or Sinaugoro languages from Central Province; Wagawaga language from Milne Bay Province; or Island Kiwai language from Western Province, should contact Don Niles at [dniles.ipngs@gmail.com](mailto:dniles.ipngs@gmail.com).

*Professor Don Niles, PhD, OL, is Director of the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies and Co-Investigator on the True Echoes project.*



*True Echoes researchers and IPNGS staff (photo by Jack Kopal).*



*True Echoes researchers and IPNGS staff (photo by Jack Kopal).*



Minister for Public Service and Nuku MP, Hon. Joe Sungi and Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture and Samarai MP Hon. Isi Henry Leonard during the Wakhai Yam Festival in Namblo village, West Sepik Province. (Inset): Namblo Village chief Philip Kuam.

| By ERIC KONE

## MORE THAN A YAM FESTIVAL IN NUKU

**Planting and harvesting yam are a big no-no for the womenfolk, so say the Sepik men from Namblo village in the Central Nuku area of West Sepik Province. The same goes for the men that sleep with women regularly. This is the story of their ritual, belief and custom.**

Namblo men fast for months in the jungle. They tell the spirits of the past their intention to clear the forest and make yam gardens. They lacerate their penises to drain the blood and any remaining fluids of their last mating session and collect special leaves for planting yam. These customary protocols are observed and carried out every year before clearing forests for yam gardens thus making yam the most sacred, valuable and highly prized traditional commodity in Nuku District.

The womenfolk only help carry yam from the garden to the yam houses. Nothing more, nothing less. It takes about 6 – 7 months for yams to mature for harvest.

Men dig holes, and place special leaves inside before placing yam shoots (tuber) inside. They appeal to the spirits for

enhancement at every hole they plant a root. Again, it's the men only that ensure the yams are growing well and safe from wild animals. Harvesting is painstakingly carried out by men, ensuring the crop is not accidentally wounded, cut or broken.

Chief Phillip Kuam from the Yambon or Sikao clan of Galem Village in Namblo, is an expert in this ritual. He earned the chieftainship and has standing in the community because he has proved to have single-handedly grown and harvested as many yams as possible over the years. He is 78 but looks 10 years younger and stronger than his age.

Last year, Chief Kuam announced that he would lead the 4th Wakhai Yam Festival in 2021 and called on his village to support him dedicate the festival to two prominent leaders from the Nuku area, the late Christopher Sambre and the late Ferdinand Kuam. Because he announced it, the Chief

**They lacerate their penises to drain the blood and any remaining fluids of their last mating session and collect special leaves for planting yam.**

had to take the lead to show how much he could put up front.

This year, during the preparatory phase of the festival, Chief Kuam harvested a total of 484 yams from just two yam gardens. In one particular hole, he painstakingly uprooted 34 yams. This, according to Chief Kuam, is a great achievement that can be made possible if every custom and traditional protocols are observed and carried out. He gave credit to the spirits of the past.

The Chief topped up his contribution with seven live pigs whilst the villagers supported him with other food stuff including more yam, sago and live pigs. Namblo village saw there was sufficient enough food to host the 4th Wakhai Yam Festival and have the thanksgiving festival in honor of their two great leaders.

Nuku is the furthest inland electorate that borders East Sepik Province. Geographically, it is closer to Wewak than it is to Vanimo. Road conditions there are above average, and the people easily get their services from the vanilla-fueled bustling town of Maprik and the East Sepik provincial capital, Wewak.

On the eve of the 4th Wakahi Yam Festival, an NCC documentary and media team left Port Moresby for Wewak. Jeffrey Simon and I (the author) were met by officers from Nuku District at Boram airport. We prepared for the six-hour drive and left for Nuku at 1pm. I was excited but apprehensive because I knew the Sepik Highway is quite notorious for arm holdups and other criminal activities. I also knew that the roads could become hostile during bad weather. It was raining and I was troubled already.

Our Driver Felix Wunun knew the highway like the back of his palm. His off-sider Robert Wils-Levi shortened the highway with his stories and jokes until we arrived at Nuku station. It was 7pm. Jeff and I rested until 1am and left for Namblo Village to capture the preparatory phase of the festival.

The village was sealed off and the men were building two yam pyramids in the middle of the village. We sought permission and an elder gave us the okay to enter. It was 3am. We saw village men lining yams in the middle of the village while others built the pyramids. They even built elevated platforms and tied yams atop.

By morning, the village was ready to host the festival. Namblo villagers dressed in their traditional attire while hundreds from the neighboring villages flocked to the village. The stage was set for the VIPs to arrive in a chopper from Mount Hagen in Western Highlands Province.

Local MP and Minister for Public Service Joseph Sungi, Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture and Samarai Murua MP Isi Henry Leonard and the Executive Director of National Cultural Commission Steven Enomb Kilanda choppered onto a temporary helipad to the excitement of the villagers. They were escorted to the grandstand where an array of speeches followed from the local level government, district, provincial and the national level.

The VIPs flew out after telling the villagers what they wanted to hear. Minister Sungi promised to extend the festival to include other local level governments, while Minister Leonard committed K30,000 to be shouldered by Tourism Promotion Authority and National Cultural Commission. NCC's Steven Kilanda recognized the festival and vowed to support it annually and declared the Wakhai Yam Festival as a national event which will now be factored into the National Events Calendar of the National Cultural Commission.

The 4th Wakhai Yam Festival 2021 ended with food distribution to those that supported with their yam contributions and the guests, including the VIPs. The main portion of the food went to the clan members particularly the uncles of the

late Nuku prominent leaders Christopher Sambre and Ferdinand Kuam.

Our return trips were delayed but safe. Our VIPs encountered low clouds and poor visibility when they returned in the afternoon of Friday the 8th of October 2021, and had to overnight in Wewak. They



however enjoyed the majestic views from the northern coastline of the country and into the heart where they landed in Mount Hagen, Western Highlands Province, the next day. They arrived in Port Moresby on Sunday 10th October, 2021.

Jeff and I, in the meantime, had to complete some unfinished business which required us to spend an extra night in Nuku and headed for Wewak at 6pm on Sunday 10th October. The exciting part of the trip started from Maprik where I was asked to drive because our Driver Felix Wunun was down with flu.

So, there I was behind the wheels travelling the Sepik Highway – a road I have safety issues with – for the first time in the night. But with the support and guidance of my media producer-cum-navigator Jeffrey Simon, we reached Wewak at 12midnight.

We arrived in Port Moresby the next day tired but satisfied that we had comprehensively covered the 4th Wakhai Yam Festival in Nuku, and we would like to give our utmost appreciation to the Nuku District Development Authority, the Office of the Ministry of Public Service and those that assisted and supported us during our trip and stay in Nuku.

Wakhai, thank you.



“Wakhai Yam Festival is a national event which will now be factored into the National Events Calendar”





NCC and Central Provincial Government officials showing the signed MoU.

# NCC & CENTRAL SIGN PACT TO DEVELOP & PROMOTE CULTURE

| By Eric Kone



**“Governor Robert Agarobe, has three development pillars including Agriculture, Tourism and Sports”**

**Central Province has become the third provincial government to sign a memorandum of understanding with the National Cultural Commission to develop, promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the people of Central.**

The first provincial government to sign a partnership agreement was Enga followed by the Milne Bay Provincial Government.

Central Province is located on the southern coast of the country. It has a land mass of about 30,000 square kilometres in size and has a population of over 260,000 people. The province stretches from Abau and Rigo districts in the eastern end, right across to Kairuku Hiri and Goilala districts in the west.

The province, under the leadership of Governor Robert Agarobe, has three development pillars including Agriculture, Tourism and Sports.

On November 8, 2021, the Central Provincial Government forged ties with the National Cultural Commission to develop, promote and preserve the cultural heritage of the people of Central Province. This partnership, in the form of a memorandum of understanding was signed at the Central Provincial Administration office in Konedobu in Port Moresby. The signatories of the MoU included the Minister for Tourism, Arts and

Culture Hon. Isi Henry Leonard, the acting Provincial Administrator Mr. John Koaba and the Executive Director of National Cultural Commission Mr. Steven Enomb Kilanda.

Minister Leonard said the signing ceremony was significant because it forged a partnership of promoting, collaborating and networking between the Central Provincial Government and the National Cultural Commission.

He said overseeing, developing, promoting and preserving the cultural heritage of Papua New Guinea has not been an easy task for the National Cultural Commission to handle alone. “It therefore requires a collaborative effort hence the signing of the MoU today is significant,” Minister Leonard said.

He congratulated Central Governor Robert Agarobe and the Central Provincial Administration for taking the initiative to partner with the National Cultural Commission, and added that the Central Provincial Government would now be able to roll out its cultural festivals and activities with the support from the National Cultural Commission.

NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda said NCC and the Central Provincial Government have taken the right step

signing the memorandum of understanding. He added that NCC would now be able to give its full support to all the cultural festivals and art exhibitions in Central Province. He congratulated Central Province for being the third provincial government to formally partner with NCC, after Enga and Milne Bay provinces.

Acting Central Provincial Administrator Francis Koaba thanked the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture and the National Cultural Commission for “sealing an ongoing collaborative effort of the Central Provincial Government and the National Cultural Commission”.

Mr. Koaba said the signing of the MoU marked an undertaking to revive the history of churches as tourism products in Central Province, giving an example of Catholic missionaries landing on Yule Island in the Kairuku area on July 4, 1884.

“We talk about the religion but we have forgotten about the messengers, so let us tell the stories about the messengers,” Mr. Koaba said.

He said tourism was one of the three pillars of the development agendas of the Central Provincial Government under the leadership of Governor Robert Agarobe. The other two pillars are agriculture and sports.

# INDIA AND PNG TO SIGN PACT ON CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM



**Arts and cultural agencies from India and Papua New Guinea are working towards signing a memorandum of understanding on cultural exchange program for 2022 – 2025.**

This was confirmed during a visit by the National Cultural Commission to the Indian High Commission in Port Moresby.

NCC's Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda in November visited Indian High Commissioner H.E Inbasekar S. and made a presentation on the achievements, activities and plans of the Commission with a view to reaching an understanding on cultural and arts program between the two countries.

He received a positive vibe from the Indian envoy who said his office will be working on a proposal to supply computers to help boost the efforts of NCC to deliver cultural services to the people of Papua New Guinea. Mr. Kilanda said he was hopeful that a memorandum of understanding will be signed between NCC and the Indian High Commission to work in partnership towards developing and cultural exchange program between the two countries.

India is the second-most populous country in the world, after China, with an estimated population of 1.37 billion people in 2020. It is the seventh largest country in the world, about one-third the size of United States of America.

Mr. Kilanda said an understanding to work in partnership with the Indian High Commission would be ideal for NCC to understand and learn how India, which also



**NCC Executive director Steven Enomb Kilanda and Indian High Commissioner Inbasekar S. during the presentation at the Indian High Commission in Port Moresby.**

has a diverse culture, promotes, develops and preserves its largest collections of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity like songs, music, dance, theatre, folk traditions, performing arts, rites and rituals, paintings and writings.

High Commissioner Inbasekar S. urged NCC to work closely with his cultural office to pave a way forward to enhance art and cultural activities between the two countries.



**NCC Executive director Steven Enomb Kilanda presenting NCC's recent quarterly newsletters to Indian High Commissioner Inbasekar S.**

## NCC PROMOTING CULTURE IN SCHOOLS

**A school in Port Moresby celebrated the 46th independence anniversary culturally – thanks to the National Cultural Commission of Papua New Guinea.**

The Kaugere Primary School in Moresby South District of National Capital District was a happy recipient of K5000 on the eve of the country's 46th independence anniversary. The money was made available under NCC's cultural education program.

Headteacher Karau Lavai thanked NCC and said the positive response from the Commission has allowed the school to observe independence meaningfully through culture. Mr. Lavai, who has been with the school for four years – two years of which as headteacher – said Kaugere Primary School has been advancing well

academically, adding it would be taking in its first Grade 9 class next year. He said he was also looking forward to developing the school into an academy – a promise Moresby South MP Justin Tkatchenko says will pursue and help establish. Mr. Lavai said part of the funds will go towards the running of the school as subsidy from the government "has not been coming good".

Senior NCC officer Mr. Bola Noho, who presented the cheque to Mr. Lavai said NCC has been supporting cultural activities through schools since 2019, but had to suspend its programs due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

He said a number of schools in National Capital District are beneficiaries to NCC's cultural education program including a

few schools in Western Highlands, Eastern Highlands, Enga and Oro provinces. In another similar presentation, Mr. Noho gave a K6,000 cheque to Life PNG Care, a non-government organization that supports and cares for orphans and the homeless in the city of Port Moresby. Life PNG Care runs basic educational program including culture.

The K6,000 was a commitment NCC made last year during graduation at Life PNG Care facility in Port Moresby.

LPC national director Collin Pake Yakio thanked NCC for honoring its commitment and expressed similar sentiments that culture has been under threat of extinction and must therefore be protected and preserved.

"We need to teach this generation about their culture because we have a generation that is lost in their culture," Mr. Yakio said.



*Minister Leonard and Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda with Member for the Diplomatic corps just before the formal opening of the exhibition.*



## VACCINATION KEY TO INBOUND TOURISM: MINISTER

| By Eric Kone

**“The Commission is now progressing consistently ensuring all its mandated tasks and responsibilities are revived and sustained”**

**Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard spoke passionately about the Covid 19 pandemic and its effects on the tourism industry and called on every citizen to get vaccinated.**

He said mass vaccination of the entire population of the country would change the tide and give confidence to foreign tourists to visit Papua New Guinea.

As of December 2021, only 11 per cent of the population was vaccinated or over 200,000 people were vaccinated. This is way far from PNG's aim to vaccinate 1.8 million people.

The Minister for Tourism, Arts and Culture and Member for Samarai Murua Isi Henry Leonard expressed his sentiments of the adverse effects of Covid-19 during the official opening of the national contemporary arts exhibition in Port Moresby in November at APEC Haus. He said culture and creative industry in PNG was an untapped industry. “To me, it is a sleeping giant,” the Minister said.

He said culture and creative industry, if given deserved-recognition, it would contribute to the national purse and assist in nation building.

Minister Leonard heaped praise on NCC and its Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda for developing a national cultural policy of the country. “The National Cultural Commission has had no National Cultural Policy since its inception in 1994. Consequently, the national cultural institutions received very limited funding,” Mr. Kilanda said.

He said: “The National Cultural Commission is a living testament of change and progress. NCC changed substantially in the last few years under the leadership of the current Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda. Prior to that, the organization was at the verge of extinction.

“The Commission is now progressing consistently ensuring all its mandated tasks and responsibilities are revived and sustained. It is an important organization that is mandated to oversee all cultural affairs of the country. It however cannot do it alone, hence needs the support of all stakeholders in the public and private sector including friends from the diplomatic corps and development partners.

*Port Moresby foreign media, Eagle News International, interviewing Minister Leonard during the contemporary arts exhibition at Apec Haus.*

“I, as Minister responsible, am quite intrigued by the efforts of NCC knowing that it will soon commission a national cultural policy which will give prominence to this industry with policy-guided activities that will receive funding from the National Government,” Minister Leonard said.

Minister Leonard said he would ensure the national policy of NCC materializes and thanked Mr Kilanda for transforming the organization to its current status.



Minister Leonard, NCC Executive Director and Arts Manager Hillary Miria with all the artists showing their certificates of participation.

## GOVERNMENT RECOGNIZES LOCAL ARTISTS

A total of 43 local artists were presented certificates of participation by the National Cultural Commission for taking part in the national contemporary arts exhibition in November.

An impressed Minister for Tourism Arts and Culture Isi Henry Leonard said he was happy to have met the artists in person. He congratulated and urged them to continue to tell their stories through their paintings and artworks whilst the government find ways to promote and help them develop their talents locally and internationally.

The 43 artists were issued certificates for their participation at the national contemporary arts exhibition held at APEC Haus in Port Moresby where they sold nearly half of their artworks raising a total of K18,600. The exhibition was staged in close collaboration with Tumbuna Visual Arts Association.

The Minister thanked the National Cultural Commission for taking the lead in recognizing the artists who have been ignored for a very long time by authorities from the arts and crafts industry.

He said the recognition of the artists by the national government has set a path in a new direction for the arts and crafts industry. He challenged his line agencies to plan regional arts exhibitions in the future as lead-up shows towards a grand exhibition to be held in Port Moresby next year.

Executive Director of National Culture Commission Mr. Steven Enomb Kilanda presented a cheque of K5,000 via his Minister to the chairman of Tumbuna Visual Arts Association Mr. Clement Koys to support the artists.

Mr. Kilanda said many of the artists were youths without any educational qualification and added that the recognition by the government should be taken as a morale booster in their career as artists. He said arts and crafts is a huge industry NCC cannot support alone hence need development partners and friends from industry to help promote and develop further.

Mr. Koys thanked NCC and the Ministry of Tourism Arts and Culture for the recognition which he described as a blessing to the artists.

He also congratulated the artists for selling their artworks during the exhibition and thanked everyone who helped in the successful delivery of the national contemporary arts exhibition.

## NCC FORMALLY RECOGNIZES ARTISTS AFTER 50 YEARS OF NEGLECT

The National Cultural Commission has pledged a total of K10,000.00 to help develop and promote the art and creative industry in the country.

NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda made the commitment on November 5 during the opening of the national contemporary arts exhibition in Port Moresby. He said K5,000 will be given to the Morobe Tourism Bureau Incorporated whilst the other half would be given to Tumbuna Visual Arts Association.

Speaking during the official opening of the national contemporary arts exhibition at the APEC Haus in Port Moresby, Mr Kilanda said NCC needed development partners and friends from the arts and creative industry to support and help it to develop and promote the art industry in the country.

NCC successfully hosted the exhibition, which ran for three days, in partnership with the Tumbuna Visual Arts Association.

He said arts was an important component of culture that should be developed and supported consistently by the national government and stakeholders from the private and public sector.

"I as head of National Cultural Commission cannot do it alone because it requires a holistic approach. I call on development partners, friends from the arts and creative industry, national and provincial governments to support the Commission to develop and promote arts and creative industry in the country," he said.



He said NCC was committed to developing and promoting the arts and creative industry in the country but has been in dire need of support and assistance from the public and private sector.

"Culture is a vital platform to build links between people and beyond borders. It can also be an engine for economic and social development and become a path for economic growth. Not only in its traditional forms but through cultural and creative sectors, partnerships with the private sector, Mr. Kilanda said.



# DPM IMPRESSED WITH NCC PERFORMANCE

*NCC Executive Officer Christopher Puiyo, DPM Performance Management Officer, Charlene Vere, NCC HR Officer Nelcy Uri, DPM Executive Manager Contract Administration, Marita Kouga, NCC Executive Director Steven Enomb Kilanda, DPM Executive Manager, Executive Performance, Diki Saia and NCC Festival Development Manager, Bola Noho, in front of the new Library and Archive facility in Waigani, Port Moresby*

**The performance of the National Cultural Commission has captured the attention of the Department of Personnel Management.**

Officers from DPM's Executive Performance Management Division on December 1 visited NCC to see for themselves proof of the leadership's key result areas. After visiting the NCC head office and two cultural institutions in Port Moresby, the officers expressed nothing but satisfaction and commendation to the Executive Director of National Cultural Commission, Mr. Steven Enomb Kilanda.

The EPM Division is a division within DPM that assesses the performance of heads of government agencies based on key performance indicators of the heads of agencies against the key result areas and performance targets.

The Division's Executive Manager - Performance, Mr. Diki Saia was full of praise for Mr. Kilanda, whom he said has "done a lot in a short space of time since his appointment two years ago". "What has been achieved at NCC has never been done before," he said of the infrastructures that were once awfully rundown.

Mr. Saia said despite little financial support from the government, Mr. Kilanda has been able to overhaul the organization giving a new-look to its cultural institutions and residential infrastructures in Port Moresby and Goroka in Eastern Highlands Province.



"The Executive Director (of NCC) has proven that you can do more with little, and he can be an example for other agencies," Mr. Saia added.

**"We have verified everything and will continue to provide our support to the National Cultural Commission"**

The Division's Executive Manager, Contract Administration, Mrs. Marita Kouga, expressed similar sentiments and promised to continue to provide the support to NCC where necessary and when required.

"We have verified everything and will continue to provide our support to the National Cultural Commission," she said.

National Cultural Commission Executive Director Mr. Steven Enomb Kilanda expressed his gratitude to the Department of Personnel Management for their continued support over the last two years, and added that he has been strategically using the little

funding support from the government to overhaul the organization and upgrade and renovate existing infrastructures.

"It is a challenge when you are not funded adequately, but you can achieve overtime if you use scarce resources strategically," Mr. Kilanda said.

He gave credit to his management and staff for the achievement and progress going forward and further thanked them for providing him the support, commitment and dedication required.

Some of the major achievements of the NCC over the last two years include the drafting of a 10-year National Cultural Policy 2022 – 2032; installation of an NCC Board after almost seven years; facilitation of the permanent appointment of the Executive Director of NCC after almost eight years; establishment of an Asset Registry and Valuation Report; cleaning up and strengthening of the finance system and human resources functions; major renovations of three cultural institutions; renovating and improving of staff residential areas; signing of memorandum of understanding with provincial government and stakeholders; development of a five-year Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023; development of NCC website; rebranding of NCC corporate image; registration of more than 20 cultural festivals and shows both at the provincial and local level government around the country and development of 10 cultural centers around the country in partnership with local level governments and non-government organizations



Officials from National Cultural Commission and Valuer General's Office from the Department of Lands and Physical Planning showing the first-ever Fixed Asset Registry and Valuation Report.

| By Eric Kone

# NCC ASSET VALUE AT K16M

**The National Cultural Commission has a fixed asset value of K16 million, according to its Fixed Asset Registry and Valuation Report.**

The Commission, since its establishment 40 years ago, has not been able to tell the value of its fixed assets until recently when it released for the first time two asset registries for the year ending December 31 2020 and August 31st 2021.

"This is a huge achievement in terms of having control over the assets of the organization. It has never been done in the last 40 years," Executive Director of National Cultural Commission Mr. Steven Enomb Kilanda said.

He thanked Countrywide Accounting and Compliance (PNG) Ltd for assisting NCC getting its fixed asset registry done.

Principal of the Countrywide Accounting and Compliance (PNG) Limited, Mr. Nigel

Hulambia, said his company has successfully migrated all fixed assets of the Commission into Xero, which is an accounting software for fixed asset registry.

"We installed Xero Cloud Accounting Software for National Cultural Commission in 2019. NCC is now using Xero to do their accounting and bookkeeping. Now NCC can better manage its fixed assets using the same Xero software," Mr. Hulambia said.

He said the company also conducted a day's training on July 15 for NCC staff for the use of Xero to manage their fixed assets.



# 2021

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S MAJOR CULTURAL EVENTS



MINISTRY OF TOURISM,  
ARTS AND CULTURE



**NATIONAL  
WARWAGIRA & MASK  
Festival**

**08-12  
July**

Kokopo,  
East New  
Britain  
Province



**ENG A CULTURAL  
Show**

**07-08  
Aug**

Wabag,  
Enga  
Province



**NATIONAL  
GARAMUT & MAMBU  
Festival**

**11-13  
Sept**

Wewak,  
East Sepik  
Province



**MOUNT HAGEN  
Show**

**15-17  
Aug**

Mt Hagen,  
Western  
Highlands  
Province



**NATIONAL  
BILASIM SKIN  
Festival**

**19-20  
Sept**

Goroka,  
Eastern  
Highlands  
Province



**GOROKA  
Show**

**18-20  
Sept**

Goroka,  
Eastern  
Highlands  
Province



**KUTUBU KUNDU & DIGASO  
Festival**

**24-26  
Sept**

Kutubu,  
Southern  
Highlands  
Province



**MOROBE  
Show**

**15-16  
Oct**

Lae,  
Morobe  
Province



**NATIONAL  
KANU AND KUNDU  
Festival**

**04-06  
Nov**

Alotau,  
Milne Bay  
Province

Check our website for all the information on  
Cultural Festivals and Shows happening around PNG.

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